

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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January 26, 2009  
PR 09-06

## **Five Individuals Cited During ABC “Shoulder Tap” Operation**

*ABC Investigators are Trying to Reduce Underage Drinking*

**(SAN LUIS OBISPO)** – Investigators from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) arrested five suspects on January 24, 2009, during a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation in the City of San Luis Obispo.

The Decoy Shoulder Tap program targets adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol. If the adults buy alcohol and give it to the minor, the peace officers arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor.

The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics show that minors generally have a higher rate of drunken driving crashes as compared to adults. Studies also show that the combination of alcohol and youth tends to increase criminal conduct. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromise health, and result in unintentional injury and death.

During the operation, forty adults were contacted by a minor decoy and four agreed to illegally buy alcohol for the minor decoy. The fifth person was a minor who was arrested for petty theft of alcohol and possession of alcohol.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor’s Cabinet.